

Society Notes.

We always understood that the militia was more or less military in its organization, but the current reports about the election of a commander of the 63rd Regiment have done something to shake our belief. Is the Canadian militia a republic, or is it an army after all, and all these reports moonshine? The idea of a number of junior officers going privately to an officer of another regiment and asking him to accept the command of their own regiment is something quite strange to our conception of military procedure. We should like to see the face of an old-fashioned general officer on hearing of such a performance; it would be a study worth preserving.

If the Constitution of the 63rd really does admit of this sort of thing, it is time that gallant regiment was either re-formed or disbanded, as we cannot conceive that it is ever likely to be of any use on its present basis. Both officers and men might employ their time more profitably in tennis parties and private theatricals than in useless drills and parades, without any foundation of discipline.

It is worthy of note in an all-round Athletic city like Halifax that one hears so little of "cycling." The obvious reason is that the country roads are too bad for anything lighter than a traction-engine, and possibly the Wanderers' might object to having their track monopolized at times by cycles; but alter all, there are few sports better suited to men who work hard in offices, and no race excites more enthusiasm than a good bicycle race. There is just a chance, too, that if cycling gained ground to any extent in Halifax, more voices might be raised for the improvement of the neighboring roads. "Shootists" seem to have a fancy for rough roads and bruises, and rarely murmur; but with the cyclist it is a very different matter. He doesn't expect to do much good cross-country, but he calls a road a road, and is liable to use very naughty words when he has to shoot on success of boulders and loose bridges in the pursuit of it.

We have looked forward with some interest to Lieut. Stairs' first article in the *Young Canadian*, and we must confess to feeling greatly disappointed and somewhat hurt by the reality. The article—reprinted by the *Echo*—is carelessly written, and quite unintelligible to any one not thoroughly acquainted with the geography of Central Africa. Of course it is very difficult for Lieut. Stairs to write on a subject that already has been threshed out as fine as it will bear, but anything carefully compiled by him would be worth reading. Of all those who conducted the expedition, Lieut. Stairs has given most satisfaction to the general public,—and it was a pretty large public that interested itself in the matter. The others have had their say, and to Stairs—the only one whose conduct throughout has been deemed open to no censure—we looked for a few words to help us form a true opinion on the merits of the case. Instead of that we have got a very badly-strung together narrative, which begins somewhere and ends nowhere; one or two very second-rate anecdotes, a few disconnected jottings on the customs of the people:—in fact, just such a letter as a man would write who doesn't want to write at all, but can't very well refuse to scribble something. We must own up to being disappointed.

The following is the only anecdote worth reprinting. Hawash was an Egyptian major, who had been ordered by the Pasha to prepare huts for him, and expressly commanded not to ask Stairs for help in any way:

"One morning," says Stairs, "Hawash came up to me smiling and rubbing his hands, and said:

'My men have already built two houses, and tell me there are no poles to be got in this valley, so I shall have to build my other houses as your Zanzibaris are doing.'

Stairs.—Yes, that seems to be your best plan.

Hawash.—Now will you just kindly give me some dozen Zanzibaris to go out and cut poles and rods, as they know best where to get them, and can fasten them on so much better than my men?

Stairs.—No. I cannot do that, as the Pasha distinctly ordered that you and your men were to build for him.

Hawash.—Yes, I know, but won't you just *lend* me the men to *fit and tie* on the poles? My own men will cut them.

Stairs.—No. I cannot even do that.

H.—Well then, will you give me six men

Stairs.—No.

H.—Well, just give me two men for a quarter of an hour, and I will manage everything else!

S. (getting mad)—No. We are not your slaves. I will not do it.

H.—Will you ask Majumoni to send me some men?

S.—His men are already busy.

H.—Will you then tell me what I am to do?

S.—Build your houses yourselves.

H.—La illah illallah!!!

A correspondent to the Kingston (Jamaica) *Gleaner* brings forward a mass of reliable statistics to prove that Canadian flour is the best in the world. The statistics are culled from analyses made by some of the best chemists in the world, and the conclusion drawn from them is one of the greatest possible importance to Canada. The question of the merits of Canadian *versus* American flour has been prominently before the merchants in the West Indies ever since the Jamaica exhibition opened. The following editorial extract from the *Gleaner* of April 20th will be both interesting and gratifying to all true Canadians:—

"In our columns to-day will be found a long letter bearing directly on this subject. It is a reply to a query that appeared in the *Gleaner*. The letter in question treats of the value of wheats, climates producing them &c.

Assuming that our correspondent's argument is right, the best wheat producing centres in the world are Russia, the Northern states of the United States of America and Canada.

The value of an extreme northerly region—temperate zone—for the production of the very finest wheat was demonstrated as far back as England's war with Russia—the Crimea—when the, then Hudson's Bay Territory, now a part of Canada produced from fifty to fifty-six bushels of wheat per acre: that locality is in the extreme north of Canada.

To return to the statements and authorities cited by our correspondent. Judging the case therefrom, Canada can justly claim the finest and most extensive wheat belt in the world. Producing a wheat whose nutritive properties are of the highest—eleven Barrels of Canadian flour being equal to fourteen Barrels of American flour—and whose moisture—relative dryness,—exceeds the best American flours.

The Canadian Commissioner, has finally dissipated the old time fallacy, that Canadian flour will not keep in the tropics. He purposely kept it sixty days, and another lot ninety days, when both were perfectly sweet and wholesome. Bread of the finest quality from them, has been baked, and of it, over one hundred thousand pieces have been distributed at the Exhibition. This direct and somewhat novel appeal to the minds of many, by way of that ancient receptacle the human stomach, has finally settled the question. To-day, thanks to the push, speeches and indefatigable efforts of Mr. Adam Brown, the Jamaica market is open to Canada, not only for flour, but for a host of things. That gentleman has done his part, it now remains for the Canadian millers to do theirs. The future of this breadstuff question lies in their hands, and a hint to them; American competition will be all the keener after this Exhibition. Finally, it is asserted that the British West Indies consume three million dollars worth per annum."

We regret to record the death of Mr. John Lyle, Senior partner in the firm of W. L. Lowell & Co. Mr. Lyle was one of the old school of hard-working, honorable business men, greatly respected by all who knew him. We beg to record our sincere sympathy with his wife and family.

Capt. Maxwell and family left for England in the "Polynesian" last Saturday.

The Inaugural reception at the school for the Blind will be held on Monday evening next, on the occasion of the opening of the New Wing.

Mr. J. Wesley Smith was welcomed home last Friday in great style by his friends of the Charles St. Church and School. A Social was given in the school-room to celebrate the occasion, with a very good programme of music, readings, and speeches.